

SB 1157 (DeSaulnier)
As Amended April 28, 2010
HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT OF 2010
Fact Sheet

SUMMARY

SB 1157 establishes the Healthy Schools Act of 2010, creating precautionary measures to protect the health and safety of California school children and teachers, and to better ensure a safe learning and working environment. This bill will prohibit public schools from using the most highly toxic pesticides rated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency or known to the State of California to cause reproductive or developmental harm pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act.

BACKGROUND

A 2002 survey of California's 15 largest school districts found that 54 pesticide active ingredients that are known or suspected carcinogens, reproductive or developmental toxins, endocrine disruptors, acute toxins and/or cholinesterase inhibitors (nervous system toxicants) may still be in use in and around California schools.

For a number of reasons, children are more susceptible than adults to the health effects from low-level exposures to some pesticides over the long-term: they have relatively greater skin surface and rates of breathing, their behavior puts them in greater contact with contaminated surfaces, and they are closer to the ground where pesticide residues collect. Pesticides in schools expose children to these toxic substances during a critical stage of growth and development and may have permanent, irreversible effects.

Pesticides have been linked to both acute and chronic illnesses. Toxic pesticides are known to cause acute symptoms, such as nausea, headache, dizziness, asthma attacks, and respiratory irritation, which are often diagnosed as flu-like symptoms. Pesticides have also been linked to chronic effects, such as birth defects, nervous system disorders,

reproductive problems, learning disabilities, immune deficiency, and several types of cancer.

Although school districts are moving towards effective, efficient, and cost-effective pest control without using harmful pesticides since the passage of the Healthy Schools Act of 2000 (AB 2260, Shelley), highly toxic pesticides are still in and around California schools.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATION

AB 2260 (Shelley) of 2000 - Chaptered

AB 1006 (Chu) of 2003 – Held Senate Agriculture & Water Resources

THIS BILL

SB 1157 prohibits public schools from using the most highly toxic pesticides on school property to assure school children and school staff have a safe learning and working environment.

In addition, SB 1157 imposes a fee on manufacturers or importers of the most highly toxic pesticides that the Department of Pesticide Regulation determines to be sufficient and limited to reimburse the department for the costs of administering the Healthy Schools Act of 2010 and to reimburse local agencies and school districts for their costs.

This bill promotes the least-hazardous pest management practices at school while allowing a school coordinator of the integrated pest management program, or a school designee to implement an emergency suspension of the prohibition in the case of a "pest control emergency" as long as appropriate notification and tracking exists to assure proper information is known and accessible to the public regarding the use of the banned pesticides and the provisions of the Healthy Schools Act of 2000 are met.

STATUS

May – Referred to Senate Floor

SUPPORT

- Parents for a Safer Environment (sponsor)
- American Lung Association
- Breast Cancer Action
- Breast Cancer Fund
- California Church Impact
- California Nurses Association
- California School Employees Association
- California School Health Centers Association
- California State PTA
- Chinese-American Political Association
- Clean Water Action California
- Coalition For Clean Air
- Contra Costa County
- Environmental Working Group
- Momas, Mothers of Marin Against the Spray
- National Nurses Organizing Committee
- Pesticide Watch
- San Francisco Bay Area chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility
- San Francisco Baykeeper
- Sierra Club California

OPPOSITION

- Pest Control Operators of California
- Western Plant Health Association

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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